

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 3

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 98

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 3—Relative to the Rosa Parks Interchange.

[Filed with Secretary of State July 16, 2003.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 3, Florez. Rosa Parks Interchange.

This measure would designate the intersection of State Highway Route 41 and State Highway Route 99 in downtown Fresno, in Fresno County, as the Rosa Parks Interchange.

WHEREAS, Rosa Parks was born on February 4, 1913, in Tuskegee, Alabama, the first child of James and Leona (Edwards) McCauley; and

WHEREAS, Rosa Louise McCauley married Raymond Parks on December 18, 1932; and

WHEREAS, Rosa Parks was arrested on December 1, 1955, in Montgomery, Alabama, for refusing to give up her seat on a bus to a white man, and her stand for equal rights became legendary; and

WHEREAS, Rosa Parks' arrest for refusing to comply with Montgomery's segregation law was the impetus for a boycott of Montgomery buses, led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., by approximately 42,000 African-Americans for 381 days; and

WHEREAS, On November 13, 1956, the United States Supreme Court ruled that Montgomery's segregation law was unconstitutional, and on December 20, 1956, Montgomery officials were ordered to desegregate buses; and

WHEREAS, Rosa Parks is honored as the "Mother of the Modern Day Civil Rights Movement," because her refusal to surrender her seat in compliance with Montgomery's segregation law inspired the civil rights movement, which has resulted in the breakdown of numerous legal barriers and the lessening of profound discrimination against African-Americans in this country; and

WHEREAS, The courage and conviction of Rosa Parks laid the foundation for equal rights for all Americans and for the Civil Rights Act of 1964; and

WHEREAS, Rosa Parks was the first woman to join the Montgomery chapter of the NAACP, and was an active volunteer for the Montgomery Voters League; and

WHEREAS, Rosa Parks cofounded the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self Development in 1987 with Elaine Easton Steele to motivate and direct youth to achieve their highest potential through the “Pathways to Freedom” program; and

WHEREAS, Rosa Parks is the recipient of many awards including the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation’s highest civilian honor, the Congressional Gold Medal of Honor, the highest honor Congress can bestow upon a civilian, and the first International Freedom Conductor Award from the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, among many other awards and honors; and

WHEREAS, Rosa Parks has dedicated her life to the cause of human rights and truly embodies the love of humanity and freedom; and

WHEREAS, Rosa Parks’ life embodies the spirit of not only the African American experience, but the American civil rights movement; and

WHEREAS, This year marks the occasion of Rosa Parks’ 90th birthday; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring, That the Legislature hereby designates the intersection of State Highway Route 41 and State Highway Route 99 in downtown Fresno, in Fresno County, as the Rosa Parks Interchange, in tribute to Rosa Parks who helped ignite the civil rights movement; and be it further

Resolved, That the Department of Transportation is requested to determine the cost of appropriate plaques and markers, consistent with the signing requirements for the state highway system, showing this special designation, and upon receiving donations from nonstate sources sufficient to cover that cost, to erect those plaques and markers; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the Department of Transportation and the author for appropriate distribution.

